Sahtu Regional Newsletter

Fall 2007
Issue 3

Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment

ITI Vision: ***To be recognized as a client-focused organization contributing to a vibrant, diverse and sustainable economy for the Northwest Territories.***

This newsletter is prepared quarterly to inform the business communities of the Sahtu Region of current events and business learning opportunities available. We would like to hear from you. Do you have a new product or service that you would like to promote? Or have you had any success stories or business challenges? Contact our office – we will highlight them in coming issues. The bottom line here is to learn from successes as well as the setbacks.

Michael Sanagan,
Regional Superintendent SAHTU

In this Issue:

Mineral, Oil and Gas Report	2
Energy Audit Program	2
Moosehide Procurement Program	2
Capacity Building Workshop	3
Big Tips for Small Business	3
BDF Financial Assistance in Sahtu	3
Sahtu Artist Workshop, TULITA	4
NWT Art Logo Program	4

A TOURISM STRATEGY FOR THE SAHTU REGION

The Sahtu region is one of the most attractive and remote places in Canada. With this in mind, as economic developers, we recognize that the Sahtu's natural assets represent a very significant, and largely untapped, tourism opportunity. The challenge ahead is not just about targeting natural assets but acknowledging that the Sahtu lacks world-class tourism products and infrastructure. In the coming months our office will be focusing on the tourism sector and developing a **Sahtu Tourism Strategy**. The Strategy would provide us with a industry development plan for the next 5 to 6 years. Terriplan Consultants, from Yellowknife, will assist with the creation of the Strategy. In the coming months there will be a series of facilitated community meetings throughout the Sahtu. These meetings will be focused on capturing suggestions, concerns and hopes from people in the communities. Look for the announcement for your community. We look forward to seeing you there.

Participants of the Sahtu's Economic Development Practitioners workshop, Deline, May 2007. From left to right: Frank Pope, Michael Sanagan, Samuel Fagbemiro (Tulita), Kristie Astrom (former Manager Trade and Investment), Leonard Kenny (Deline), Vivian Edgi (Fort Good Hope). Nazim Awan coordinated this session.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Last spring Premier Handley signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI) aimed at promoting economic self-sufficiency for the beneficiaries of the Sahtu Land Claim.

This MOU sets out targets for aboriginal businesses to procure 50% of all government contracts tendered in the Sahtu. The primary goal of the Government with the MOU is to create favourable conditions necessary to develop healthy community economies. Last year, government contracts in the Sahtu was in the $30 million range.

The Six Principles underlying the MOU are:

1. Objectives center on economic development and capacity building in the Sahtu Region.
2. Fully respect, but not link directly to, the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.
3. GNWT delivery objectives require recognition of value for money.
4. The MOU would be a non-contractual, non-binding understanding between the two parties.
5. The MOU would apply to all Claim beneficiaries in the Shatu.
6. The document does not restrict the authorities of either party.

SAHTU REGION MINERAL, OIL & GAS ACTIVITIES– Fall 2007

Frank Pope: Regional Petroleum Advisor frank_pope@gov.nt.ca Tel: 867-587-2900 ext 223

This past summer was very busy in the Sahtu with mineral exploration taking place on several fronts.

We had companies in the Mackenzie Mountains, in several locations around Great Bear Lake, plus other areas of the Sahtu. Some companies are prospecting while others are drilling for core samples, and aircraft equipped with technical equipment to conduct aerial surveys are still flying grids throughout the region. One company, who were conducting a drilling program in the Deline District, pulled up stakes and left the Territory when threatened by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board with being called up for an Environmental Assessment. This action came some time after the Sahtu Land and Water Board had awarded the required licenses for work to proceed. Since the company pulled out, the MVEIRB did indeed call the project up for an environmental assessment on their own motion. We are unsure if the company plans to participate in this costly exercise, as this action may have put them out of business.

This mineral exploration project was fully supported by the Deline Land Corporation and several jobs and business opportunities were negotiated between the company and the community. In addition since this was potentially a caribou sensitive area, the community and company came to arrangements to have wildlife monitors on site and agreements to shut down work if caribou approached or came close to the work site. This company went to great lengths to address the communities' concerns.

Many mining companies do advise the communities where they are working through the consultation process and offer jobs and business opportunities. On the other hand some companies come in to the region without communicating with anyone. Our regional office has planned a more vigorous campaign to advise exploration companies of Aboriginal consultation requirements. Sanatana Diamonds recently announced the discovery of kimberlite on their properties at Greenhorn Lake north of Great Bear Lake. Kimberlite is an indicator mineral associated with diamonds. Sanatana conducted a core sample drilling program on the property this summer and early fall. They will continue the program next spring. In addition to exploration companies, the Northwest Territories Geoscience Office staff were in the Mackenzie Mountains conducting geological mapping programs, and contractors are working at the Port Radium uranium mine site on phase one of a multi-year reclamation and clean up project. The community of Deline through the Land Corporation is partners in this project.

OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES

The Town of Norman Wells continues to work with staff of GNWT and Imperial Oil to find a viable solution to the expected reduction of natural gas supply by 2008 to complete cessation of natural gas by fall of 2010.

Some businesses and government departments have taken the situation seriously and have proceeded to convert their facilities to more readily available diesel fuel or propane. These companies are to be congratulated on their initiative.

BG International conducted a successful helicopter supported seismic program this past summer (2007) east of Fort Good Hope. Several business opportunities were offered to the community resulting in employment for residents from Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake. Once the results of the data gathered are assessed, future plans for exploratory drilling could be developed. Talisman Energy who conducted a seismic program north of Deline last winter (2006/07) Are developing plans for a drilling program in the winter of 2008/09) Future seismic programs are still in the planning stages. They plan no work this coming winter.

Petro-Canada will undertake an exploratory drilling program this coming winter (2007/08) south of Deline. Service contracts have been awarded in the Region, and we anticipate residents will obtain employment on the rig and/or in support of the drilling operations.

Kodiak Petroleum plans to conduct a small seismic program in the Little Chicago area north of Fort Good Hope, near the location they worked last winter. This program is on a block, which covers both Gwich'in and Sahtu lands.

MGM, (formerly Paramount) have been working towards undertaking two seismic programs in the Sahtu this coming winter. One program north east of Norman Wells and another south of Colville Lake. Latest information is that the Colville Lake program is cancelled and the program in the Tulita District is at the community consultation, access and benefits negotiations and land use permit application stages. MGM plan exploratory drilling and seismic programs in the Beaufort/Delta region this coming winter.

For more information please, contact Frank Pope.

New Programs

1. **Commercial Energy Audit Program** to make energy audits accessible and affordable for NWT Businesses. Financial assistance up to 90% of eligible costs or $ 7,000.00/applicant will be provided in Sahtu.

2. **Moosehide Procurement Program** GNWT will guarantee the purchase of traditionally tanned Moosehides from NWT producers and then make these hides available to crafts persons. For more information contact Peggy Pouw at Norman Wells Historical Centre.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS IN THE SAHTU REGIONS (CBEDS)

Second phase of regional Community Economic Development workshop was held August 20-24, 2007, in Norman Wells. Participants from all five Sahtu communities were in attendance. Attendees role in their respective communities varied from Economic Development Officer to Band Managers, Senior Administrative Officer, Land Corporation Presidents and Business Managers of community enterprises. The majority were returning to second phase after completion of the first course in January this year. Three advanced courses on economic development and two modules for business counseling certification were completed, during this session.

It was an intensive week - workshop included many small-group sessions, interactive role-playing, and a variety of media formats. But all of the participants agreed that the workshop provided a forum for networking and understanding community challenges. All participants agreed on the eventual benefits of the information gathered and problem-solving techniques learned. Developers Associations of Alberta, delivered economic development courses while Tammy Forrester, delivered business counseling courses on behalf of Acadia Centre for Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

CBEDS Participants August 2007 Photo credit: ITI Sahtu

This Issue: Big Tips for Small Business!

Information Essential for Success

Every business operate within a complex economic environment where entrepreneur's success depends on the ability to anticipate and react to changes in:

- Customers
- Competitors
- Suppliers and Credit market

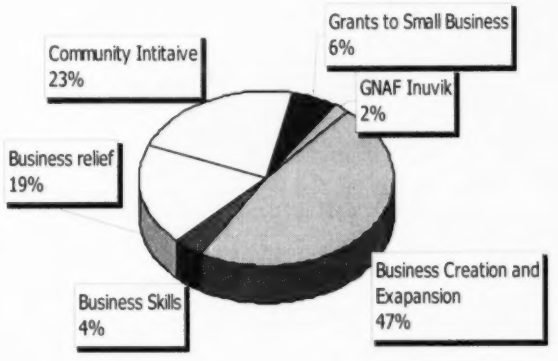
Knowing the marketplace will be the key for success. Business and marketing plan should address market trends at three different levels:

- Economic trends
- Industry and Community trends

NEW EDO NORMAN WELLS

Ms. Nichole Richards has joined as EDO Norman Wells, with Sahtu Business Development Centre. She has been a resident of Norman Wells for 26 years. With ten years experience in bookkeeping and administrative services, she will provide information and services for business start-ups, financing and other business issues of entrepreneurs. As well, she will deliver business and economic development programs of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Sahtu Business Development Assistance
April to September 2007-08



The Back Page

SAHTU ARTISTS WORKSHOP IN TULITA

Tulita Yamoria Community Secretariat hosted a Sahtu Artists Workshop in Tulita on August 16 & 17, 2007.

Mr. Antoine Mountain, Dene artist and writer, Mr. Leonard Kenny, EDO Deline, Tulita Community leaders and 14 artists from Deline, Fort Good Hope and Tulita participated in this event. The workshop featured display of impressive and beautiful works of art in the soapstone and antler carving, painting, beading and sewing. As guest speaker, Antoine Mountain, a renowned Dene artist, shared his understanding, insight and aptitude required to be a successful artists. He pointed out that self-motivation, commitment and dedication were critical ingredients in attaining success as a professional artists. He also displayed paintings to demonstrate how different situations can be visually represented.

The idea of Sahtu Artists Association, representing interests of all the artists in the Sahtu Region was discussed. The formation and operation of such a body will enhance the promotion and marketing of the products/works of the artists. Sahtu Regional Manager, Trade & Investment, Department of Industry, Tourism & Investment also attended the workshop and explained the available programs for the art promotion.

Art Products on display and participants of the Sahtu Artists Workshop Art Products on display and participants of the Sahtu Artists Workshop in Tulita

NWT ARTS BRANDING LOGO

A new GNWT Program has been launched for the NWT Arts Branding Logo. This logo will provide a distinct visual identity for arts and fine crafts produced by NWT artists. Visit www.nwtarts.com to register and find out how you can use this NWT brand for your performances or arts and crafts.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ARTS

ARTS DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST

Economic Development Contacts:	**Fort Good Hope**: Vivian Edgi, 598-2231 **Deline:** Leonard Kenny, 589-4508 **Tulita:** Samuel Fagbemiro, 588-3116 **Norman Wells:** Nichole Richards, 587-2016 **Sahtu Business Development Centre:** (Community Futures) 587-2016

We would like to hear from you. Do you have questions, comments and suggestions for this newsletter? Please contact the editor: Nazim Awan, Manager-Trade and Investment at nazim_awan@gov.nt.ca Ph: 867-587-2900 ext 225. The Sahtu office of ITI is presently located on the first floor of the Heritage Hotel. In November, We are moving to Ravens Centre office complex, second floor at 1–A Ravens Road P.O. Box 130 Norman Wells, NT X0E 0V0. New telephone numbers will be notified, accordingly.